



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KEN GIVENS
COMMISSIONER

REGULATORY SERVICES
ANIMAL HEALTH

Tennessee Voluntary Johne's Disease Program Announcement **(Spring 2004)**

Johne's disease is a common and costly intestinal disease of dairy and beef cattle throughout the United States. The disease is caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*, which invades the intestinal and lymph node tissue of ruminant animals causing diarrhea and weight loss. The disease is not limited to cattle, having been diagnosed in sheep, goats, deer, llamas, elk, bison and other free-roaming ruminants. Johne's disease typically starts as an infection in calves, although clinical signs do not usually appear until cattle are two to five years of age. Since there is no cure for Johne's disease, good management practices and surveillance programs are critical to limiting the financial impact of the disease.

The Tennessee Voluntary Johne's Disease Program has been established to provide the Tennessee cattle industry guidelines for the control and prevention of Johne's disease. The program consists of three basic elements:

- (1) Education – to inform producers about Johne's disease, including cause, clinical signs, transmission, etc. and to provide information on biosecurity.
- (2) Management – to work with producers to establish good management practices on their farm to control and prevent Johne's disease.
- (3) Testing (optional) – to determine whether the herd goes into the Status Program, which is a "test negative" component, or the Control Program, which is a "test positive" component.

It is recommended that the herd owner and the owner's veterinarian, in cooperation with state and federal veterinarians, conduct a Johne's disease herd risk assessment on the farm to assess that farm's relative risk for Johne's disease and implement biosecurity and management practices to control and prevent the disease. The Tennessee Voluntary Johne's Disease Management Plan is designed to inform herd owners of the risk factors for the spread of Johne's disease, implement appropriate management, and formulate surveillance testing for Johne's disease on a particular farm.

Following the management practices of the Tennessee Voluntary Johne's Program helps the herd owner be more profitable, more biosecure and prevents more disease in general. Many of the disease prevention management practices used in the Johne's program are used in other diseases. Also, the Johne's program fits nicely with the upcoming National ID Program.

For more information or if you would like to enroll in the program, please call the Tennessee State Veterinarian's office at (615) 837-5120, or contact Dr. Charlie Hatcher at (615) 837-5183 or charles.hatcher@state.tn.us. Below you will find an Enrollment Form for our Tennessee Voluntary Johne's Disease Program. This form must be signed by the owner. The form can be mailed back to Dr. Hatcher at the address listed below:

Dr. Charles Hatcher
Staff Veterinarian
Johne's Disease Coordinator
Department of Agriculture
P. O. Box 40627
Nashville, TN 37204

Or, you may fax your completed form to: (615) 837-5250.



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Tennessee Voluntary Johne's Disease Program for Cattle Enrollment Form

I have read and understand the requirements for participation in the Tennessee Voluntary Johne's Disease Program and agree to comply with the program protocols. I understand that this is a voluntary program and my agreement to participate does not obligate the Tennessee Department of Agriculture or the United States Department of Agriculture to provide reimbursement of any kind associated with my participation. My participation can be terminated at any time by providing a written request to the office of the Tennessee State Veterinarian or to the Area Veterinarian in Charge, USDA-Veterinary Services.

This program is based on education, risk assessments on the farm and appropriate management to control and prevent Johne's disease. On-the-farm risk assessments should be performed **annually** by a state or federal veterinarian or certified Johne's Disease Program private practitioner. Testing strategy and management plans are determined based on the risk assessment and the farm visit.

As a new enrollee in the program, I elect to participate in the following (please choose one of the following three programs):

(1) **Status Program (negative testing)** _____

Standard track plan _____

Fast track plan _____

(2) **Control Program (some positive testing)** _____

(3) **Management Program (no testing)** _____

Herd Information

No. of dairy cows _____

No. of beef cows _____

Total number of adult cows _____

Owner Information

Printed name / Signature

Address

City, State, Zip

County

Telephone number (home)

Telephone number (cell)

E-mail

Date

Veterinarian Information

Name of veterinarian

Name of clinic

*Please return **completed & signed** form to address below or fax to number below. If you have any questions, you may contact Dr. Charles Hatcher at (615) 837-5120 or (615) 837-5183, or charles.hatcher@state.tn.us.*